JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Lottie Dawson  (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)  (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  Villari, Lentz & Lynam, LLC  1600 Market Street, Suite 1800  Philadelphia, PA 19103				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Milwaukee (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)			
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) F	PTF DEF	Incorporated or Pri	and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF incipal Place
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	•			Citizen of Another State			
				en or Subject of a Creign Country	3	Foreign Nation	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			548 <b>/ 16</b> 4	DEFITIDE/DENATES	DIX	IEDITOV	OTHER STATISTICS
CONTRACT  ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJUR    365 Personal Injury - Product Liability   367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability   PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability   PRISONER PETITIO Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 550 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	XTY	DRFETTURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 1 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Applicatio 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appe	SC 157  RTY RIGHTS  Trights  It  Emark  SECURITY  (1395ff)  C Lung (923)  C/DIWW (405(g))  Title XVI	OTHER STATUTES  375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta 28 USCS Section Brief description of ca medical malpracti  CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	Appellate Court  tute under which you at 1332 suse: Ce IS A CLASS ACTION	re filing (1		er District  intuites unless di  compare the compare the comparent to the compare the comparent to the compare the comparent to the comparent		if demanded in complaint:
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY O	OF RECORD	J JOHL		

# Case 2:14-cv-05612-ER Document 1 Filed 10/01/14 Page 2 of 13

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. 1390 Camp Hill Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034 Address of Plaintiff: Address of Defendant: 111 West Michegan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53203 1390 Camp Hill Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes□ No□X Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? No 💢 Yes□ RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes□ No□X 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes□ No 🖾 CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. 

Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. 

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. D FELA 2. 

Airplane Personal Injury 3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. 

Assault, Defamation 4. □ Antitrust 4. □ Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. I Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. □ Labor-Management Relations 6. X Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 7. 

Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. 

Habeas Corpus 8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos 9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases 9. □ All other Diversity Cases medical malpractice 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. □ All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) Leonard G. Villari , counsel of record do hereby certify: 🖈 Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought. leand of Vellar 9-30-14 Attorney I.D.# NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court

Leonard G. Villari Leval & Walan

68844 Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

except as noted above.

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

# **CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

**CIVIL ACTION** 

Telephone	FAX Number	er	E-Mail Address			
215-568-1990	215-568-992	20	lgvillari@aol.com			
Date	Attorney-at-	aw	Attorney for Plaintiff			
9-30-14	Leonard G. Villar	<u> </u>	on Py Welani			
(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not i	fall into any one of	f the other tracks.	( x)		
(e) Special Management – C commonly referred to as the court. (See reverse s management cases.)	complex and that i	need special or inte	ense management by	( )		
(d) Asbestos – Cases involve exposure to asbestos.	ing claims for perso	onal injury or prop	perty damage from	( )		
c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.						
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.						
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.						
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	DLLOWING CAS	E MANAGEMEI	NT TRACKS:			
In accordance with the Civiplaintiff shall complete a Cafiling the complaint and serveside of this form.) In the edesignation, that defendant sthe plaintiff and all other parts which that defendant believes.	se Management Trage a copy on all defer event that a defend whall, with its first a cties, a Case Manage	ack Designation Fordants. (See § 1:03 ant does not agree ppearance, submitteement Track Designation Fordants of the second seement Track Designation Fordants of the second seement Track Designation Fordants of the second seement Track Designation Fordants of the second secon	orm in all civil cases at the t 3 of the plan set forth on the r e with the plaintiff regardin t to the clerk of court and se	ime of everse g said rve on		
Northern Health Facilities	s, Inc. et al.	:	NO.			
v.		: :				

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Lottie Dawson

# ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check appropriate Category)

I,I	Leonard C	3. Villari, Esquire	, counsel of record	l do hereby certif	y:	
	0	the damages recordinterests and costs	verable in this civil action of	case exceed the su	best of my knowledge and belie am of \$150,000.00 exclusive of	
Date:	9/30/20	<u>14</u>	Leonal J. Vel Attorney at Law	lan	68844 Attorney I.D. #	
		NOTE: A trial de	e novo will be a trial by jur	y only if there has	s been compliance with F.R.C.P	. 38.
		ny knowledge, the in this court excep		any case now pe	ending or within one year previo	ously
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CIV. 60	)9					

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

LOTTIE DAWSON :

1390 Camp Hill Road

Fort Washington, PA 19034,

Plaintiff : CIVIL ACTION

NORTHERN HEALTH FACILITIES, INC. : NO.

d/b/a DRESHER HILL HEALTH AND

ν.

REHABILITATION CENTER and :

EXTENDICARE HEALTH FACILITIES, INC.

111 W. Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53203

and

EXTENDICARE HEALTH FACILITIES, INC.

d/b/a EXTENDICARE FOUNDATION and DRESHER HILL HEALTH AND

REHABILITATION CENTER
111 W. Michigan Street

Milwaukee, WI 53203,

Defendants.

# **CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Lottie Dawson, by and through her undersigned attorneys, Villari, Lentz & Lynam, LLC, says by way of Complaint against Defendants, as follows:

# I. PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Lottie Dawson, is an adult individual, *sui juris*, residing at 1390 Camp Hill Drive, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034.
- 2. Plaintiff, Lottie Dawson ("Plaintiff" or "Ms. Dawson"), is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 3. Defendant, Northern Health Facilities, Inc. d/b/a Dresher Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center and Extendicare Health Facilities, Inc. ("NHF"), is a Delaware Corporation

with a principal place of business located at 111 W. Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.

- 4. At all times material hereto, Defendant NHF regularly conducted business in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 5. At all times material hereto, Defendant NHF owned, operated, managed and/or controlled Dresher Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center ("DHHRC") located at 1390 Camp Hill Drive, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034, for the purpose of providing the highest level of care to its patients.
- 6. At all times material hereto, Defendant NHF acted or failed to act, by and through its agents, ostensible agents, servants, work persons and/or employees, including in particular, but not limited to, the DHHRC nursing staff, who were then and there acting within the scope of their authority in the course of their relationship with said Defendant in furtherance of said Defendant's pecuniary interests.
- 7. Defendant NHF, as principal, is vicariously or otherwise responsible for the negligent acts or omissions of its agents, ostensible agents, servants, work persons and/or employees.
- 8. Defendant, Extendicare Health Facilities, Inc. d/b/a Extendicare Foundation and Dresher Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center ("EHF"), is a Delaware Corporation with a principal place of business located at 111 W. Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.
- 9. At all times material hereto, Defendant EHF regularly conducted business in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 10. At all times material hereto, Defendant EHF owned, operated, managed and/or controlled DHHRC, for the purpose of providing the highest level of care to its patients.

- 11. At all times material hereto, Defendant EHF acted or failed to act, by and through its agents, ostensible agents, servants, work persons and/or employees, including in particular, but not limited to, the DHHRC nursing staff, who were then and there acting within the scope of their authority in the course of their relationship with said Defendant in furtherance of said Defendant's pecuniary interests.
- 12. Defendant NHF, as principal, is vicariously or otherwise responsible for the negligent acts or omissions of its agents, ostensible agents, servants, work persons and/or employees.
- 13. None of the above-named Defendants is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### II. JURISDICTION

14. This Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.S. § 1332 because the Plaintiff and Defendants are citizens of different states, and because the amount in controversy exceeds \$150,000.00.

# III. <u>VENUE</u>

15. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C.S. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

# IV. FACTS

- 16. Ms. Dawson was admitted to DHHRC (hereinafter "Defendants' facility") on May 4, 2011.
- 17. At the time of her admission, she suffered from early stage dementia, which according to Defendants' records, placed her at increased risk for falls.

- 18. At all times material hereto, Ms. Dawson was continent of bowel and bladder and not confined to a wheelchair but ambulated, and performed activities of daily living, independently.
- 19. Nonetheless, due to her mild dementia and medication, Ms. Dawson was a known fall risk, and accordingly, required a "higher level of care".
- 20. Indeed, Defendants' records are replete with notations of Ms. Dawson's "[i]mpaired balance" and "disturbances of balance, gait positioning ability".
- 21. On June 27, 2012, Ms. Dawson was prescribed Seroquel, 12.5 mg (twice daily), for dementia.
- 22. On August 9, 2012, she was observed with a bruise to her right forearm; no fall was documented.
- 23. Progress notes entered September 13, 2012, at 12:30 p.m. provide that Ms.

  Dawson was "frequently ambulating throughout facility from 2<sup>nd</sup> fl[oo]r to 1<sup>st</sup> floor numerous times throughout this shift."
- 24. Progress notes entered on the ensuing shift indicate that Ms. Dawson was "ambulating [with] walker to do laundry + back walking around r[oo]m. Finally in bed by 8 pm."
- 25. Conversely, Observation Detail notes for the same period -- September 13, 2012 -- indicate that "no locomotion off unit" occurred.
- 26. For some unknown/undocumented reason, on October 17, 2012, Ms. Dawson's Seroquel prescription was <u>doubled</u> to 25 mg (twice daily) and her Zoloft prescription was doubled to 50 mg.

- 27. Three days later on October 20, 2012 -- and again for some unknown/ undocumented reason -- Ms. Dawson was prescribed Neurontin 100 mg for the first time without her or her family's knowledge or permission.
- 28. On October 23, 2012, Ms. Dawson called her daughter, Brenda Brandon ("Mrs. Brandon"), who was not home at the time; she spoke with Mrs. Brandon's husband, and told him that she "didn't fell well all over".
- 29. Upon receiving her mother's message, Mrs. Brandon called the facility and was informed by a woman named "Claire" that Ms. Dawson recently had been prescribed Neurontin.
- 30. Mrs. Brandon was taken aback by this news because, as Power of Attorney over Ms. Dawson, she was supposed to be informed of any changes in medication.
  - 31. Mrs. Brandon instructed Claire not to give Ms. Dawson any more Neurontin.
- 32. On the following morning, October 24, 2012, Mrs. Brandon went to Defendants' facility to visit her mother, whom she found thoroughly disoriented and incoherent; Ms. Dawson's face was "inches" away from a plate of food, which she was just staring at "as if she were drunk".
- 33. Mrs. Brandon tried to speak her mother -- who, it must be noted, weighs scarcely more than 90 pounds -- but her mother just "babbled" like she was "speaking in tongues".
- 34. Mrs. Brandon summoned the Director of Nursing, a man named "Ted", who said "It's obvious she's been administered too much medication."
- 35. Ted stated that he would have Ms. Dawson's vitals checked; meanwhile, Mrs. Brandon got her mother into her bed to get some rest.

- 36. After a while, Mrs. Brandon went to give her mother a kiss goodbye, and Ms. Dawson screamed! Ms. Dawson then moved her hair back and showed Mrs. Brandon a huge hematoma on top of her forehead/scalp.
- 37. Ms. Dawson was transported to Abington Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department, where she was diagnosed with a level 3 head trauma with multiple hematomas to her left face, forehead and shoulder, secondary to unmonitored fall.
- 38. The hospital records repeatedly note that these injuries occurred in the wake of an acute increase in dosage of Seroquel and Zoloft, in addition to the administration of Neurontin.
- 39. Accordingly, the hospital's plan of care was to "hold Zoloft, Seroquel, Neurontin and monitor for M[ental] S[tatus]."
- 40. Ms. Dawson spent the next six (6) days in the hospital, until she was discharged on October 29, 2012.
- 41. The above-referenced incidents were in no manner caused by any act or failure to act on the part of Plaintiff.
- 42. The above-referenced incidents were directly and proximately caused by the negligence and carelessness of Defendants.

# <u>COUNT I – NEGLIGENCE</u> <u>PLAINTIFF, LOTTIE DAWSON v. ALL DEFENDANTS</u>

- 43. Plaintiff, Lottie Dawson, hereby incorporates the averments set forth in paragraphs 1-42, *supra*, as though fully set forth herein at length.
- 44. The aforementioned incidents were caused by the negligent and careless conduct of Defendants, acting by and through their employees, servants, agents, ostensible agents and work persons, and consisted, *inter alia*, of the following:

6

- a. Failure to monitor Plaintiff, an already-known fall risk, after doubling her psychotropic medications, in addition to prescribing/administering 100 mg of Neurontin for the first time;
- b. Failure to restrain Plaintiff, an already-known fall risk who was manifestly incoherent and in distress from the acute increase of psychotropic medications, until she became stable enough to walk without assistance;
- c. Failure to provide ambulatory aids, including but not limited to a wheelchair, after doubling Plaintiff's psychotic medications, in addition to prescribing/administering 100 mg of Neurontin for the first time;
- d. Failure to raise bed rails;
- e. Failure to provide Plaintiff with bed and/or chair alarms to alert nursing staff of unassisted ambulation, after doubling and administering new/additional psychotropic medications;
- f. Failure to recognize a patient in distress;
- g. Failure to notify, let alone consult with, Plaintiff's family members, including but not limited to her Power of Attorney, Brenda Brandon, regarding changes in Plaintiff's medications;
- h. Failure to evaluate and treat their patient, who was debilitated and in distress and urgent need of medical attention at Defendants' facility following the acute increase of her psychotropic medications;
- i. Failure to provide any medical treatment to their patient, who was debilitated and in distress and urgent need of medical attention at Defendants' facility following the acute increase of her psychotropic medications;
- j. Failure to summon, much less immediately summon, emergency medical services for Plaintiff, who was debilitated and in distress and urgent need of medical attention following the acute increase of her psychotropic medications;
- k. Abandonment of Lottie Dawson by leaving her unattended, when she was debilitated, in distress and in urgent need of medical attention following the acute increase of her psychotropic medications;
- 1. Failure to provide personal or physical assistance to Plaintiff, who was debilitated and in distress and urgent need of medical attention following the acute increase of psychotropic medications;

- m. Failure to properly monitor the medications and dosages prescribed and administered to Plaintiff, as well as the interactions between said medications;
- n. Failure to render reasonable medical care by failing to properly supervise medical personnel assisting in the provision of medical care to Plaintiff;
- o. Failure to appropriately order repeat Pro Time INR tests;
- p. Failure to correctly monitor and alter Plaintiff's dosage of blood-thinning agents; and
- q. Failure to request appropriate consultations.
- As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendants, Ms. Dawson suffered numerous painful, permanent and debilitating personal injuries, including, *inter alia*, the following: level 3 head trauma; multiple hematomas to her left face, forehead and shoulder, concussion; irreversible brain damage; nerve damage; muscle spasms; weakness; stiffness; difficulty ambulating; gait dysfunction; difficulty falling asleep; interrupted sleep; and aggravation and/or exacerbation of all known and unknown pre-existing medical conditions.

  Ms. Dawson also suffered severe aches, pains, mental anxiety, anguish, humiliation, and a severe shock to her entire nervous system and other injuries, the full extent of which is not yet known.
- 46. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendants, Ms. Dawson has suffered, and may in the future suffer, an inability to perform her usual and daily duties, labors, occupations and avocations.
- 47. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendants, Plaintiff has been, and may in the future be, required to expend various and diverse sums of money in an effort to cure her injuries.
- 48. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence and carelessness of Defendants, Ms. Dawson has been, and may in the future be, required to undergo significant medical care,

evaluation, therapy, treatment, costly medications and invasive and painful medical procedures and surgeries in an effort to cure her injuries.

49. Defendants' failure to exercise reasonable care as alleged above comprised outrageous conduct under the circumstances, manifesting a wanton and reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Lottie Dawson, demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants, for special and compensatory damages in an amount in excess of One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00), plus punitive damages, the statutory rate of interest, costs and related expenses, and such other just and equitable relief as this Honorable Court deems proper.

# V. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury as the above Count against Defendants.

VILLARI, LENTZ & LYNAM, LLC

Date: 09/30/14

By: /s/ LGV7043

Leonard G. Villari, Esquire

Thomas A. Lynam, III, Esquire

I.D. Nos. 68844/83817

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Attorneys for Plaintiff,

Lottie Dawson